

I have said many times that VA staff members are truly our unsung heroes. Director Williams is one of those heroes. Whether attending veterans' gatherings in Port Angeles about efforts to expand VA care on the Peninsula, or working with the difficult issues facing the Walla Walla VA Medical Center, Tim approached his job with integrity, honesty and a dedication to America's veterans.

Director Williams, I wish you all the best in the future, and thank you for your distinguished service.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1003. An act to amend the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-992. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Aviation Into-Plane Reimbursement Card" (DFARS Case 2006-D017) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-993. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security-Guard Services Contracts" (DFARS Case 2006-D011) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-994. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protests, Disputes, and Appeals" (DFARS Case 2003-D010) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-995. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled "Berry Amendment Exceptions—Acquisition of Perishable Food, and Fish, Shellfish, or Seafood" (DFARS Case 2006-D005) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-996. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Free Trade Agreement—El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua" (DFARS Case 2006-D019) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-997. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Radio Frequency Identification" (DFARS Case 2006-D002) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-998. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-999. A communication from the Attorney, Office of General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alternative Fuel Transportation Program; Replacement Fuel Goal Modification" (RIN1094-AB67) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1000. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to energy conservation standards; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1001. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Assessment of Potential Impact of Concentrating Solar Power for Electricity Generation"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1002. A communication from the Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a study conducted to assess management practices in the Department; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1003. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the implementation of the Quincy Library Group's forest management proposal; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1004. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf—Update of New and Reaffirmed Documents Incorporated by Reference" (RIN1010-AD24) received on March 14, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1005. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Cook Composites and Polymers Company" (FRL No. 8285-3) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1006. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting,

pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spinosad; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8114-4) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1007. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Thifensulfuron Methyl; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8117-1) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1008. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tribenuron Methyl; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8117-2) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1009. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vermont: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions" (FRL No. 8287-8) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1010. A communication from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Standardized NUHOMS System Revision 9" (RIN3150-AI03) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1011. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, the report of several documents recently issued by the Agency that are related to its regulatory programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1012. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program" (RIN2125-AF13) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1013. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Statewide Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning" (RIN2125-AF09) (RIN2132-AA82) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1014. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Size and Weight Enforcement Regulations" (RIN2125-AF17) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1015. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Construction and Maintenance" (RIN2125-AF18) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1016. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's competitive sourcing efforts for fiscal year 2006; to the